

ERGYPMEN AND OFFICIALS AROUSED BY THE GREER CASE

MRS. GREER BOY 3 HOURS

(Continued from First Page.)

sel for the Greers. "He n going to help him if I rohorates testimony.

garet Harmer, another ate of the Greer home, to give her version of

roborated every detail of that of her sister, but she added: "I was anxious to know where Albert did get that money, so after we were sent from the room I slipped around to a side door and looked on until Mrs. Greer gave out and didn't have strength enough to go on. Albert was so done up Mrs. Greer had to hold him up by his two hands while she struck him across the back."

Albert, she said, finally told Mrs. Greer that he had taken the money from another boy's pocket.

"He didn't tell her that until Mrs. Greer told him that Mr. Greer was going to kill him when he got home. If he didn't tell, the witness added.

J. E. Peterson, one of the two District labor inspectors, was one of the last witnesses called by the District before Attorney George P. Barse announced that the District's case was in.

Peterson told of his inspection of the Greer home after charges of violation of the child labor law had been made against Mr. and Mrs. Greer.

"I have seen the little children from Greer's bakery come out and sit on my automobile and gnaw on bones they got from the Greer kitchen."

"They were poorly clothed, ragged, and dirty. They appeared cold and hungry and always seemed to be overworked."

"I have never seen them well dressed, not even during the bitter cold spell earlier in the winter."

This was the sworn testimony of a lawyer—F. D. Davidson, of 1112 East Capitol street, who for the last two years has kept two of his automobiles in the Greer garage, at the rear of the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Greer, 116 Twelfth street northeast.

In the course of the examination of Mr. Davidson in juvenile court last night, where the Greers are facing charges of providing improper homes for several orphan children, the lawyer-witness declared that he was so moved to pity by the children's condition that he did what he could to relieve them.

"I often gave them nickels and dimes when they came around," Mr. Davidson said.

Neighbor Tells Same Story.

A neighbor of the Greers, William T. Hammack, who resides at 134 Eleventh street northeast, at the rear of the Greer bakery, gave substantially the same testimony.

Asked by Corporation Counsel if he had noticed the clothes worn by the Greer bakery children, Mr. Hammack said:

"They did not appear to me to be well-clothed. I noticed this particularly during the cold weather earlier in the season."

"Frequently, I saw the girls in the alley, or in the street, wearing no coats or outer garments. They wore short-sleeved affairs, the same as they wore inside the house."

"I remarked to several persons at the time about it. On one occasion I saw the little boys from the bakery going down the street. They had on no coats, and I don't think they even had on hats. The day was bitterly cold. Behind them walked the girls. They wore the same light clothing I had seen them wearing when I had looked through the windows and seen them working in the bakery."

Swore at Laughter.

Mr. Hammack told of passing the Greer home some time ago and hearing Mr. Greer swearing at the girls. "I heard the girls laughing and talking inside the house," the witness said.

"Mr. Greer was in the alley preparing to leave in his automobile. He swore at them and then told them to 'Shut up or I will shut you up.' They ceased laughing."

"I have never at any time seen those children well clad," he continued. "They wore on Sunday just what they wore on week days."

Labor Inspector Peterson said that he was accompanied on his visit to the Greer bakery by Mrs. Mina C. Van Winkle, police woman.

"Several children were present when we went into the bakery," Mr. Peterson said. "We asked them if they had labor permits. All of them answered in the negative."

Gave Older Ages.

"When we asked their ages, they gave ages older than they later admitted were correct."

Mrs. Van Winkle had previously testified that she heard both Mr. and Mrs. Greer whispering to the children to "say sixteen years old."

The labor inspector told of his inspection of the sleeping quarters of the children.

"I had to climb up a perpendicular ladder and crawl through a trap door to enter the boys' room," he said.

"There were six beds or cots in the room. They were very close together. There was no stove or heating apparatus in the room."

"In the girls' room, there were seven little iron cots very close together. There were some girls in there very busily engaged in cleaning up."

Made Several Visits.

On cross-examination Peterson said he had been to the Greer home several times.

Asked why he did not take action, he said he did not know there were children working in the bakery under sixteen years old. His concern, he said, was for children under sixteen.

The District rested its case at 7:32 o'clock, Assistant Corporation Counsel Robert P. Barse reserving the

case for the Greers.

Home is the ideal environment for the development of a child. The interests of society are wrapped up in the moulding of the character of the young life which calls for the protection of the home. If, through necessity, and only then, some adequate provision must be made for the training of the child in an institution because the home life cannot be preserved, then the environment should be one which will preserve the spirit of the home. Personally I prefer to call the institution a home rather than an orphanage, so that the dominant purpose may always be kept before those responsible for its management as a center of Christian culture.

Aside from the religious training, which is the foundation of a noble character, provision must be made for the proper physical and mental training of the orphan child.

There is much to be said in favor of placing children in homes where children are desired. No child should ever be allowed by any orphanage or children's organization to be sent during the plastic period of child life into a home where they desired to profit by the child's labor. The acceptance of references and statements of persons to whom the applicant has referred the authorities of the children's institution at par, without a personal investigation by its own officers is a mistake. In some instances it is a blunder and a crime because it takes from the child an opportunity for an all-round development of its character and talents.

ton testified, "all the girls had pretty gingham, lawn and poplin dresses."

Usually she made silk dresses for the girls at Easter.

Says Meals Were Good.

"Were you present when the children ate their meals?" the witness was asked.

"Yes. For breakfast they had meat, gravy, hot biscuit, coffee and oatmeal, and there was enough for all," she replied.

For lunch, she said, they had bread, butter, jelly, or apple sauce, and sometimes tomatoes and vegetables from the Greer farm in Virginia.

She said the children were served the same menu as that served the Greers.

The witness was asked if the children were furnished towels.

"Yes," she replied. "I stitched their initials in many of them."

Towels Offered in Evidence.

A bundle of clean towels was then offered, as evidence. She identified several of them as bearing initials made by her.

The towels bore the initials of some of the children recently taken from the Greer home, who have testified that they had no towels, but used their jackets, caps, or anything that came handy, in drying their faces and hands.

On cross-examination, Mrs. Chiverton was again asked to identify the towels. She claimed she put the initials on them last fall when several boys arrived from Philadelphia.

Attorney Barse asked the witness if the towels had ever been washed. She said she did not know.

"Do they appear to you as if they had been washed since those initials were sewed in them?" asked the attorney.

"Oh, I guess so," she said. "You see, I did not have anything to do with them after they left me."

Saw Children With Towels.

"Do you know whether the children ever had them or not?" he demanded the attorney.

"The Greers saw them going to bathe with towels on their arms that I had worked on," she replied.

Asked how she thought the Greers treated the children, she answered: "The Greers saw that the children were properly clothed, fed and given medical attention. They took an interest in them and tried to bring them up as if they were their own children, so as to make good citizens of them."

Asked about Mary McKnight, who claims she was detained against her will in the Greer home for fourteen years, and is now planning to sue for wages and damages for that period of time, Mrs. Chiverton said:

"Mary McKnight was there before I was. She left a few months ago, however."

Was Frail Girl.

"Mary was rather frail and every year she had a spell of sickness. A doctor was always called and she was given medical attention. She was not allowed to do anything but light work."

The court asked the witness what she considered "light work."

"We also made 'Sunshine' cakes, picked raisins, cracked nuts, and did such work as that," the witness answered.

Mrs. Chiverton said Mrs. Greer looked after Miss McKnight, and when the girl was ill "went up to her room three or four times a day or sent one of the girls up to see how she was getting along."

Several photographs were offered as evidence. One of them was a group picture of several girls, formerly at the bakery.

"Yes, I remember all those girls. There are eleven dresses I can see there that I made," the witness said.

Mrs. Chiverton was asked if she did not grow so nervous over the

No Child Should Be Sent To a Home Without a Thorough Investigation

By REV. HUGH T. STEVENSON,
Bethany Baptist Church.

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Children's Council to Consider the Strange Case of the Bakery Children

By STEPHEN E. KRAMER,

Assistant Superintendent of Schools and President of the Children's Council.

"All social workers of the city are following with increasing interest the stories in The Times of the strange case of the bakery children. I have no official report on the case, and know nothing more than The Times has printed, but it suggests things that the Children's Council should consider."

"At our monthly meeting on Wednesday next, I will have the case up for discussion. Some of our members are already taking an active interest in the matter."

"The council is made up of representatives of all the social agencies in the District. It is a sort of clearing house where all phases of child welfare are considered."

"If reports are true, this is a case that should affect one way or another every social agency in the District."

Question of Child Placing Most Important

By REV. J. HENNING NELMS,
Pastor of the Church of the Ascension.

"While I am unfamiliar with the Greer case, the statements as published in The Times proves that this city needs immediate and adequate laws for child-placing."

"The only solution to the problem in my mind is to build institutions in which to place the hundreds of orphans. Such institutions are needed and needed badly."

"I have been a strong advocate for the building of such institutions for many years. Anything I can do for the children I do it gladly. I will preach from the pulpit on the necessity of the immediate building of institutions and stand ready to join any movement in bettering conditions."

"Truly the situation is critical and should demand immediate action. To my mind the question of child-placing is a most important question and should receive immediate attention, for it concerns the welfare of our country's future citizens."

beating administered Albert Wilson two months ago that she was forced to get up and go home.

"Such things always make me nervous," she said. "I was about ready to go home anyway. It was not the whipping that made me leave. I did not see Mrs. Greer strike the boy but two blows. Then I left. I don't know what took place later."

Attorney Barse asked Mrs. Chiverton about her assertion that the Greers frequently brought in loads of fruit and produce from the Greer farm.

She said it was true.

"The food was kept in the refrigerator," the witness answered.

"Was there a lock on it?" the attorney asked.

"I believe there was," she replied. "Did the Greers keep it locked?"

was the next query.

"I think they did, at least at night," was the answer.

Attorney Barse reopened the discussion of "Dorothy Harmer's twenty-three dresses," which Mrs. Chiverton claimed she made for her in a year and a half. She stuck to her story.

"Didn't Dorothy and other girls there go to the drug store and get morphine for you?" asked the attorney.

"No, sir," the witness answered. "Don't you use the needle?" was the next shot from the attorney.

Uses Migraine Tablets.

"No, I use migraine tablets," she replied.

"Why?" she was asked.

"On a doctor's orders, to allay the pain in the lesions in my back," she said.

She said she had been using migraine tablets "for a year or two."

Asked if she had not left the employ of Mrs. Greer, she said she quit some time ago because she wanted higher wages. "She let me come back at my own price," the witness added.

On redirect examination it was brought out that Mrs. Chiverton suffered injury to her back several years ago. She said she was partially paralyzed as a result.

"By using a couple of migraine tablets the pain in the lesions in my back is eased," she said.

Unreconciled With Dorothy Harmer.

The witness testified that she had had trouble with Dorothy Harmer because she reported Dorothy for saying that Mrs. Greer was a "deceitful, fool, liar and thief."

"Dorothy later came into the room and said, 'Anybody who says I called Mrs. Greer those names is a liar,'" Mrs. Chiverton said.

"I told Mrs. Greer one of us would have to leave."

"Who left?" asked Attorney Davis.

"Dorothy did," was the reply.

The trial is to be resumed this afternoon at 1 o'clock.

It appears probable that Mr. and Mrs. Greer will not take the stand in their defense until some time next week. There are a number of character witnesses to be called by the defense.

Dependent Children and Orphans Should Not Be Farmed Out to Work

By MGR. C. F. THOMAS,
Rector of St. Patrick's Church.

"I have for a long time been opposed to placing orphans, or dependent children, in the care of private families. I have come across so many instances of neglect and want of proper care of such children. The heads of our Catholic institutions for orphans are very loath and slow to put out orphans in any kind of families."

"It is a very rare family that can treat those children properly. They are disposed to make them drudges and give them very little of the better things of life. I believe that orphans are better cared for in our Catholic institutions because they are there prepared for work when they are judged competent to look out for themselves. There is no more love, consideration, or attention paid to them than our Sisters and Brothers bestow, because they are animated by a high, super-natural, and Christian spirit."

"The Washington Times is to be commended in originating a movement to better the living conditions of such unfortunate children and to wipe out altogether the iniquities of this system of 'farming out' orphans and dependent children."



MGR. THOMAS.

THREE HURT WHEN CAR HITS WAGON

Three men were injured today when a wagon in which they were riding was struck by a street car of the Washington Railway and Electric Company at Four-and-a-half street and Missouri avenue northwest.

The men are Anastasia Georgiastue, thirty-seven years old, of 208 G street northeast; Garfalia Chiporolus, forty-three years old, of 300 John Marshall place northwest, and Elson D. Fokipes, twenty-one years old, of 300 John Marshall place northwest. All were taken to Casualty Hospital.

An automobile operated by Malcomb Dougherty, twenty-one years old, of Cherrydale, Va., collided with an automobile owned by Robert Connick, of 326 Ninth street northwest, which was standing in front of 1118 B street northeast today. Both machines were badly damaged.

Slight damage resulted when an automobile operated by Harry Pearson, of 225 Seventh street northeast, collided with an automobile operated by Mrs. Bessie Tyler, of 325 B street northeast, at Third and C streets northeast last night.

James Gidding, 1335 Union street northwest, was injured on the body yesterday when he was thrown from the bicycle he was riding as it was struck by an unidentified automobile at Twelfth and G streets northwest.

PHONE PROFITEERS ARE DENIED SERVICE

Postmaster General Burleson issued an order yesterday discontinuing the telephone service of hotels, apartment houses, clubs, and similar institutions in New York city which charge guests, tenants, or members for telephone messages an amount in excess of that charged for the same service at the public pay stations in the same exchanges.

Mr. Burleson's order was embodied in a telegram to Union N. Bethel, chairman of the Government telegraph and telephone operating board at New York.

The hotels were charging 10 instead of 5 cents.

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